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Satellite image shows two burning planes at Khartoum airport on Sunday | AP

INDIAN AMONG AT LEAST 56 KILLED IN CONFLICT-HIT SUDAN

The Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary group battled for control of the nation for the second day on Sunday

KERALA MAN HIT BY STRAY BULLET IN KHARTOUM

Several loud explosions and intense gunfire were heard across Sudan's capital Khartoum, AFP reported. Albert Augustine (left pic) from Kerala's Kannur district, who was working for a private company in the capital city, died after a stray bullet hit him. The Indian embassy has advised all Indians in Sudan to take utmost precautions and stay indoors | P9

THREE U.N. WORKERS ALSO KILLED

- Three Sudanese employees of the UN food agency were killed in the restive Darfur region, forcing the group to suspend its work
- Large-scale violence erupted on Saturday amid a power struggle between the commander of the country's armed forces, and the head of its main paramilitary force — the Rapid Support Forces

4,000

INDIANS LIVE IN SUDAN, AS PER OFFICIAL DATA. ABOUT 1,200 ARE SETTLED THERE

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Newborn taken away from Vani Vilas Hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN another case of kidnapping of a newborn, an eight-day-old baby boy was taken away from Vani Vilas Hospital in the early hours of Saturday. The police are verifying the CCTV footage to trace the woman who kidnapped the newborn.

Prasanna MP, a resident of Madenoor village of Tiptur taluk in Tumakuru district, has filed a complaint with the VV Puram police, stating that he had admitted his wife Suma HK to the hospital on April 6 and she gave birth to a boy the next day. The baby was healthy but as the mother had a low count of white blood cells, the doctors advised her to stay in the hospital for a few more days. While the complainant, a painter, returned to his hometown, his relative Nagamma stayed with the mother and the newborn, who were in room no. 1 of the annexe ward.

"Around 4am on Saturday, the mother fed the baby and fell asleep. When she woke up about 30 minutes later, the baby was missing. She enquired with the hospital staff who had no clue. The relative Nagamma was also sleeping when the baby was kidnapped. Later, Suma informed her husband, who rushed to the city to file a police complaint," the police said.

When the police checked the CCTV footage, it was found that a woman wearing a saree kidnapped the newborn in her vanity bag. "We have formed special teams to rescue the boy and nab the culprit," the police said.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, flanked by AAP leaders, addresses a press conference before his visit to the CBI headquarters for questioning on Sunday | PARVEEN NEGI

CBI quizzes Kejri for nine hours in excise policy case

Delhi CM asked about his links to the accused

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE CBI on Sunday questioned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for nine hours in connection with its probe into the Delhi excise policy, which was allegedly tweaked to benefit some traders, causing a ₹2,873 crore loss to the exchequer.

After the marathon questioning, which happened amid protests by his party, the Aam Aadmi Party leader left the CBI headquarters in Delhi around 8.30 pm on Sunday after being quizzed by the agency throughout the day. Kejriwal had arrived at the headquarters around 11 am after being summoned under Section 161 of the CrPC as a witness.

Section 161 Code of Criminal Procedure allows 'examination of a person as witnesses' and provides for oral examination by any investigating officer on assumption that the person might be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of a case.

According to sources, Kejriwal was asked about his role in the scam and also his associations with some of the top accused such as Sameer Mahendru and Vijay Nair. The CBI also quizzed him on allegations that many decisions regarding the excise policy took place at his residence in his presence.

Before arriving at the CBI office, Kejriwal posted a video message on Twitter claiming the BJP has ordered the agency to arrest him. While leaving his house for the CBI headquarters, Kejriwal told the media that "some anti-national forces don't want India to develop". He said, "For 75 years those forces had stalled India's progress but now India won't stop. I want to tell these forces that the country will continue to progress: People of India want the country to progress."

This is the first time the Delhi CM has been summoned in the excise policy case. Kejriwal's name came up in the ED's second chargesheet filed before a special court on January 6. According to the ED, Kejriwal told accused No 1 Sameer Mahendru that Vijay Nair was his 'boy' and can be trusted.

56 questions

Kejriwal said 56 questions were posed to him. "I answered them all... as I said earlier we have nothing to hide," he said, terming the case 'false, fabricated and motivated by dirty politics'. "We will die but not give up honesty," he said

Atiq shooters sent to 14-day judicial custody

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE UP police on Sunday registered an FIR against three persons — Lavlesh Tiwari, Sunny and Arun Maurya — in connection with the killing of gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in front of Colvin hospital of Prayagraj on Saturday night.

The brothers were shot from point-blank range by the assailants, who had disguised themselves as media persons.

The shooters were produced before a local court on Sunday evening and were sent in 14-day judicial remand. The next date of hearing is April 29.

The three assailants were booked under Sections 302 and 307 of Indian Penal Code along with Sections 3, 7, 25 and 27 of Arms Act. According to police sources, the trio fired 44 shots at the gangster brothers, who died on the spot.

Sources said the killers used Zigana .45 bore pistol, a Turkish weapon which was used to kill Siddhu Moosewallah in Punjab. While the assailants were emptying their weapons, they were overpowered by the cops. In the melee, a constable Man Singh, who was part of the police escort, received a gunshot wound and a journalist also sustained injuries.

As per the FIR, among the three attackers, Lavlesh Tiwari, 22, of Banda and Sunny alias Mohit Singh, 23, of Hamirpur are history sheeters. While Tiwari had five cases against him, Mohit, a member of Sunder Bhati gang of western UP, has 13 cases against him.

Arun Kumar Maurya had also gone to jail in connection with a criminal case in Panipat, where he lives with his grandfather.

According to the FIR, the three assailants admitted to their crime saying they wanted to earn a name for themselves by eliminating the Atiq gang.

The autopsy was carried out in Prayagraj by a panel of five doctors. The last rites of Atiq and Ashraf took place at their family graveyard in Kasari-Masari, where Atiq's son Asad was laid to rest on Saturday.

Police stand guard outside a court in Prayagraj where three suspects were produced; (Right) suspects Arun Maurya, Sunny Purane and Lavlesh Tiwari | PTI

Shettar quits as MLA, meets top Cong leaders, may join GOP today

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

SENIOR BJP leader and former chief minister **Jagadish Shettar** on Sunday resigned as member of the Legislative Assembly, but made it clear that he is not resigning from the primary membership of his party yet.

When he met Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri in Sirsi to submit his resignation, the latter tried to convince him to change his mind, but Shettar was adamant. It is said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah too called Shettar and had a detailed discussion with him.

After denying Shettar the Hubballi-Dharwad Central Assembly ticket, BJP tried hard to retain the six-term MLA. Sources said he was offered a ministerial berth in the central government, Rajya Sabha membership, a governor's post and also the party ticket to any of his favourites, including family members. But Shettar refused to bite.

After submitting his resignation to Kageri at 12.30 pm, he said he will not blame anybody and has high regards for both PM Narendra Modi and Shah. He said he was upset with the way the party treated him recently.

Later in the night, he met AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president DK Shivakumar, senior leader Shamanur Shivashankrappa and others. Congress sources said he is likely to join the party on Monday.

With this, BJP has lost two senior Lingayat leaders in the last few days. On Friday, former DCM Laxman Savadi too bid bye to the saffron party to join the Grand Old Party.

Congress leader MB Patil tweeted, "Lingayats are not treated as the core of BJP, but merely a vote bank. Karnataka will witness a new massive political churn because of how Lingayats were mistreated by the BJP and specifically two vested common interests. Lingayats are set to return HOME to the Congress in 2023." P4

BJP to lose MP Karadi Sanganna too

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

BJP that is witnessing some big-ticket exits of late will lose Koppal MP Karadi Sanganna too as he has decided to resign as member of Parliament on Monday. Again, the pain point is the denial of a party ticket to contest the May 10 Assembly polls.

Sanganna, who was one of the aspirants, had also demanded a ticket for his son Gavisiddappa Karadi. But both have not found their names in the BJP list of contestants. Sanganna on Sunday met his followers at his residence in Koppal to get their opinion.

Sources said Sanganna will go to New Delhi in a special flight and tender his resignation. He is likely to join JDS and contest the election. P4

EXPRESS READ

US is India's biggest trading partner in FY23

New Delhi: The US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner in 2022-23 on account of increasing economic ties between the two countries. Provisional data shows bilateral trade between India and the US has increased by 7.65% in 2022-23. P10

4 Indians among 16 killed in Dubai apartment fire

Dubai: A fire swept through an apartment building in an older neighbourhood of Dubai, killing at least 16 people, including four Indians and injuring nine on Sunday. The Indian Consulate in Dubai confirmed that four Indians were among the dead. P9

JAGAN'S UNCLE HELD IN VIVEKA MURDER CASE

The CBI on Sunday arrested Y S Bhaskar Reddy, an uncle of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, over the murder of Vivekananda Reddy, a former MP and brother of late Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Rajasekhara Reddy | P5

A century, MI win and Tendulkar debut

KKR's Venkatesh Iyer smashed a ton but it went in vain as Mumbai posted their second win. It was also a match that witnessed Arjun Tendulkar make his maiden appearance in IPL. Talking points...

IYER ENDS 5,476-DAY DROUGHT

The last KKR batter to score an IPL ton was Brendon McCullum in the opening game of the 2008 season. After 5476 days, Iyer became the 2nd KKR batter to do so as he smashed 51-ball 104 against MI, taking team total to 185/6. But it wasn't enough.

TENDULKAR BACK IN WANKHEDE

Arjun Tendulkar, son of the India great Sachin Tendulkar, opened the bowling for MI in his first-ever appearance in the league. They become the first father-son duo to have played in the IPL | PTI

SAMSON, HETMYER TAKE RR HOME

Chasing 178 against Gujarat Titans, Rajasthan Royals lost early wickets, but Sanju Samson and Shimron Hetmyers smashed fifties taking the game deep before the latter finished off the game in style in the final over of the match | PTI

Release caste census data, remove quota cap, Rahul tells Modi govt

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI & V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

IN a strong rebuttal to BJP's allegations that he insulted the OBC community with the 'Modi' surname remark that led to his disqualification as an MP, Congress senior leader Rahul Gandhi here on Sunday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) that was initiated by the Congress-led UPA government in 2011.

He asked Modi to remove the 50 per cent ceiling on quota to provide reservation to communities proportionate to their population.

Addressing the Jai Bharat rally, his first public meeting after being disqualified, he said, "There are only 7 per cent people belonging to OBCs serving as secretaries, who are the backbone, in your government. There should be sharing of power proportionate to their population. If you (Modi) do not release the census data, it's an insult to OBCs. The data will reveal their population and the opportunities given to them."

Rahul was cautious while addressing the huge crowd as in his entire speech, he did not mention Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi, and his eviction from Delhi quarters. He, however, chose to target the relationship between Modi and Adani, alleging that it is proving to be dangerous for the country.

CONTINUED ON: P2

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge share a light moment during the Jai Bharat rally in Kolar on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

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